



UNITED NATIONS
TECHNOLOGY BANK
FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

United Nations Secretary General visits UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries

Press Release

31 October 2019, Gebze – United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres today visited the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries in Gebze, Turkey. As a new United Nations entity, the UN Technology Bank is dedicated to supporting the contribution of science, technology and innovation in the world’s least developed countries, running programmes in 20 countries and working with partners to enhance support and coordination in technology sectors.

“I’m extremely proud to see the work that colleagues have done here. This Technology Bank was born 11 months ago and is already having a very important role in supporting least developed countries to have access to new technologies and to be able not to stay behind in the implementation of the Agenda 2030,” said Mr. Guterres.

“My appeal to the international community as a whole is to provide this bank with resources that will be necessary to take full potential of the excellent work that is being done.”

During his visit, the Secretary-General was briefed on the UN Technology Bank’s programmes across 20 least developed countries, including science, technology and innovation policy capacity training, technology transfer, direct support to boost the capacity of national academies of science in least developed countries and enhancing scientific research capacity.

“It is a great privilege for us to welcome the UN Secretary General to our offices today, marking the culmination of the operationalization of the Technology Bank. This visit signifies the importance that the United Nations places on ensuring the digital divide between least developed countries and the rest of the world is bridged and that the potential for science, technology and innovation to drive the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the least developed countries be fully exploited,” said UN Technology Bank Managing Director, Joshua Setipa.

The Secretary-General was accompanied on his visit by Mr. Mustafa Varank, Minister of Industry and Technology. As the first UN entity to be headquartered in Turkey, the UN Technology Bank has received vital financial and material contribution from The Government of Turkey in addition to voluntary financial resources from other UN members including Norway, India, Bangladesh and Guinea.

The establishment and full operationalization of the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, is the first UN Sustainable Development Goal target, (17.8), to be achieved, speaking directly to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's principle of leaving no one behind.

Least developed countries are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets. Enhanced capacity in science, technology and innovation demonstrates great potential to promote the structural transformation of least developed country economies, eradicate poverty and foster sustainable development.

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Media contact – Louise Stoddard – untb@un.org

Further information - www.un.org/technologybank